

ranking and wish him continued success in his future education and career.

# INTRODUCTION OF THE “DANIEL PEARL FREEDOM OF THE PRESS ACT OF 2009”

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 2009*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the “Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009”—legislation to highlight and promote freedom of the press worldwide.

In early 2002, Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl was kidnapped and murdered by terrorists in Pakistan, just four months after 9/11. Lured from his apartment, Daniel was on his way to interview a Muslim fundamentalist when he was captured. Just two days before his abduction, Daniel had learned that his wife Mariane was expecting a baby boy. Although four of the kidnappers were convicted in July of 2002, seven other suspects, including those who allegedly helped murder Daniel Pearl, remain at large.

Despite international outrage over this brutal murder, freedom of the press has continued to decline on a global scale.

In 2006, Anna Politkovskaya, one of Russia’s most prominent journalists, was shot dead in her apartment building. The investigative journalist, well known for her critical reports of the Kremlin’s actions in Chechnya, is widely believed to be the victim of a politically motivated contract killing. Anna Politkovskaya was the 13th Russian journalist murdered during President Vladimir Putin’s administration. One month ago, a jury in Moscow acquitted three men charged with her murder.

Just two weeks ago, on March 17th, 2009, two American journalists were detained by the North Korean authorities while reporting on the plight of North Korean refugees in China. North Korea has accused the reporters of illegally entering North Korea from China and has stated the journalists will be indicted and tried for suspected hostile acts.

Acts of violence against journalists continue to rise in frequency, with very few of the attacks resulting in prosecution. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, in 2008 at least 41 journalists were killed in connection with their work, and 125 were imprisoned. As the level of violence directed at the press continues to rise, so too does the side effect of self-censorship. Legal mechanisms are also increasingly being used to restrict the media, both through overt censorship and through the use of laws that forbid “endangering national security” or “inciting hatred” by commenting on sensitive or anti-government topics.

Freedom of expression cannot exist where journalists and the media are not independent and safe from persecution and attack. Our government must promote freedom of the press by putting on center stage those countries in which journalists are killed, imprisoned, kidnapped, threatened, or censored. Therefore, together with my colleague Congressman PENCE, I am introducing legislation which calls upon the Secretary of State to submit an annual report on the status of freedom of the press worldwide, bringing attention to those governments, extremists, and criminal groups which seek to silence opposition.

To further this effort, my legislation also establishes a grant program aimed at broadening and strengthening the independence of journalists and media organizations. Too often media assistance programs are short-term, ranging from one year projects to weekend workshops, and are buried as a second thought under broader human rights programs. The Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009 will give prominence to freedom of the press projects within the State Department, and ensure a long-term, holistic approach to journalist and media development.

Please join me in this effort to promote freedom of the press worldwide.

# INTRODUCING A BILL TO DESIGNATE THE LIBERTY MEMORIAL AS THE NATIONAL WWI MEMORIAL AND TO ESTABLISH THE WWI CENTENNIAL COMMISSION TO ENSURE A SUITABLE OBSERVANCE OF THE WWI CENTENNIAL

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 2009*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, today along with my colleagues, Representatives AKIN, BLUNT, CARNAHAN, CLAY, EMERSON, GRAVES, LUETKEMEYER, and SKELTON, I am introducing a bill designating the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri as the National World War I Memorial. This bill also establishes a Centennial Commission to ensure a fitting observance of the centennial of World War I.

The First World War extended through four of the bloodiest years in world history. This truly global conflict involved the world’s major powers, mobilizing over 70 million military forces. The War to End All Wars ended with an armistice on November 11, 1918 on the Western Front in Europe, after approximately 16 million military and civilian deaths across the globe, including 375,000 American casualties. The death and destruction of World War I irrevocably impacted the lens through which people viewed the world: The optimism that initiated the early 1900s was swiftly sobered by a consciousness that came to be known as the Lost Generation.

Many people, however, were determined to make this generation a generation remembered and honored. Concerned American citizens in Kansas City, Missouri initiated a movement to erect a lasting and meaningful monument to the men and women who served and died for liberty in World War I.

According to R.A. Long, the founding president of the Liberty Memorial Association, the 217-foot Liberty Memorial was intended to represent “on the part of all people, a living expression for all time of the gratitude of a grateful people to those who offered and who gave their lives in defense of liberty and our country.” In 1919, the people of Kansas City, Missouri expressed an outpouring of support and raised more than \$2,000,000 in two weeks for a memorial to the service of Americans in World War I. This fundraising was an accomplishment unparalleled by any other city in the United States and reflected the passion of public opinion about World War I, at the forefront of everyone’s memory.

H. Van Buren Magonigle won a national architectural competition officiated by the American Institute of Architects to further transform the Liberty Memorial idea into reality. On November 1, 1921, nearly 200,000 people witnessed the dedication of the site for the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri. The dedication marked the only time in history that the five allied military leaders—Lieutenant General Baron Jacques of Belgium, General Armando Diaz of Italy, Marshall Ferdinand Foch of France, General John J. Pershing of the United States, and Admiral Lord Earl Beatty of Great Britain, were together at one place. General Pershing echoed the significance of the dedication by asserting, “[t]he people of Kansas City, Missouri are deeply proud of the beautiful memorial, erected in tribute to the patriotism, the gallant achievements, and their heroic sacrifices of their sons and daughters who served in our country’s armed forces during the World War. It symbolized their grateful appreciation of duty well done, an appreciation which I share, because I know so well how richly it is merited.”

Shortly after its dedication, the Liberty Memorial was again distinguished during an Armistice Day ceremony in 1926 when President Calvin Coolidge marked the beginning of its three-year construction project by laying the cornerstone of the memorial. In his dedication speech, President Coolidge declared that “[. . .] the magnitude of this memorial and the broad base of popular support on which it rests, can scarcely fail to excite national wonder and admiration [. . .].” A message on the Liberty Memorial’s tower bears an inscription that inspired its namesake: “In Honor of Those Who Served in the World War in Defense of Liberty and Our Country.” Four stone “Guardian Spirits” representing courage, honor, patriotism, and sacrifice proudly perch above an observation deck, making the Liberty Memorial a noble tribute to all who served in World War I.

Undoubtedly, hundreds of thousands of people—since the memorial’s inception and even today—regard the Liberty Memorial as a powerful symbol of and tribute to Americans who served in World War I. The grandeur and significance of the Liberty Memorial was recognized by the 106th Congress as a national symbol of World War I. The Liberty Memorial that overlooks Kansas City extends far beyond the Kansas City limits. The Memorial serves as a perennial reminder of and for all Americans who served our country during World War I.

The evidence articulated above demonstrates that the Liberty Memorial already is, has been, and deserves to be regarded as a national tribute to World War I. This legislation aims to make official what so many people already consider to be the National World War I Memorial.

While we look to the Liberty Memorial in remembrance of World War I, we likewise must look to the upcoming World War I centennial, to be honored in 2017. To ensure a proper observance of the World War I centennial, this legislation also aims to create a commission to be known as the World War I Centennial Commission. The Commission will promote not only a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I, but will also recognize the values of honor, courage, patriotism, and sacrifice, in keeping with the representation of these values through the four Guardian Spirits